

Windom, MN — Today, Congressman Walz visited Sagge Memorial Good Samaritan Society to see first-hand how seniors are receiving high quality, low cost care in the convenience of their own homes.

“What we have seen today is that we can use technology to give patients more flexibility and better care,” said Walz. “Driving back and forth to the doctor’s office is not convenient and often times, is not in the best interest of a patient’s health. If we can find a way to deliver more convenient and higher quality care at a lower cost, everyone wins.”

“We are excited about this legislation that Congressman Walz has introduced and that Congressman Walz came here today to see this technology first-hand,” said Tom Syverson, Southern Minnesota Regional Director for Good Samaritan Society. “This technology is crucial in serving seniors and patients, while helping them retain their independence.”

Congressman Walz, and his Republican colleague Rep. Ginny Brown Waite of Florida, introduced bipartisan legislation in Congress to encourage the use of home health care technology. H.R. 3030, the Fostering Independence Through Technology Act (FITT Act), would create pilot programs within the Department of Health and Human Services for home health agencies to use home monitoring and communications technology to care for patients in their own homes.

“We have to look for more ways to deliver high quality, low cost care,” said Walz. “By utilizing technology, we can treat southern Minnesotans in the comfort of their own homes. As we continue to talk about health care reform, these are the innovative ideas that are good for patients, good for doctors and good for the taxpayer.”

This legislation is supported by the Home Care Technology Association of America, the National Association of Home Care and the Telehealth Leadership Initiative.